

SENATOR ISADORE HALL, III
35TH SENATE DISTRICT
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 4085 ★ SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
WWW.SENATE.CA.GOV/HALL

SB 779 (Hall) Certified Nursing Assistant Staffing Ratio
FACT SHEET

Sponsors: SEIU California, Robert Harris, (916) 832-6931

SEIU – United Long Term Care Workers, Samantha Contreras, (916) 288-1461

Staff Contact: Brian Duke, (916) 651-4035

ISSUE

Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs), licensed through the California Department of Public Health, provide skilled nursing and supportive care to over 340,000 seniors, people with disabilities and people recovering from illness or injury in California. Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) are the primary care givers in SNFs, providing twenty-four hour care to residents seven days a week such as assistance with daily living, post-hospital and post-surgical care, diabetic management and restorative rehabilitation services.

Current staff requirements for SNFs, however, do not meet the direct care needs of nursing home residents. Operators of SNFs are considered to meet the 3.2 nursing hours per patient care requirements even when including personnel, other than CNAs, in the staffing ratio. The resultant chronic under-staffing of CNAs in SNFs creates potentially unsafe living conditions for residents.

Without enough CNAs to serve patients, these individuals are placed at risk of unnecessary falls, illness or injury. Residents that receive sub-par care are at a greater risk for hospitalization or being reinjured, resulting in increased healthcare costs.

SOLUTION

SB 779 requires SNFs to publicly post, at all times, the number of direct caregivers on duty and assure a minimum number of hours of care provided by CNAs by instituting specified staff-to-patient ratios.

CNAs are the primary providers serving the needs of seniors and people with disabilities in SNFs. Residents of SNFs and their families deserve a safe living environment to help patients recover from surgery and heal from trauma. SB 779 helps to ensure that CNAs, the primary providers of care, are available to meet the needs of seniors, people with disabilities and people recovering from illness or injury, and will help to create a safer living environment for these resident patients.

SUPPORT

SEIU California (co-sponsor)

SEIU-ULTCW (co-sponsor)

American Nurses Association\California
California Commission on Aging
California Long-Term Care Ombudsman Association
California National Organization for Women
Congress of California Seniors

(As amended 5/4/15)